

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR. MAYOR BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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10,000 TREES FOR CHARLESTON KICK-OFF AND ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

Charleston, SC—Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. and Jimmy Bailey, Chairman of the 10,000 Trees for Charleston Commission held a tree planting ceremony today on Meeting Street to kick-off the 10,000 Trees For Charleston initiative.

Mayor Riley proposed the creation of the 10,000 Trees initiative in his 2012 State of the City address. His vision was to create a new community organization, working with the city, to seek to plant 10,000 trees in the suburban parts of the community, planted along highways, shopping areas, streets and even parks. He said, "I believe that we should be committed to the reforestation and beautification of the edges of our suburban neighborhoods." He created the 10,000 Trees Commission and appointed Jimmy Bailey to serve as the chairperson.

As part of 10,000 Trees for Charleston, trees will be planted along seven key corridors in Charleston: Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Folly Road, Savannah Highway, St. Andrews Boulevard, Upper Meeting Street, Old Towne Road, and Glenn McConnell Parkway. The trees for the 10,000 Trees for Charleston initiative are funded through donations. 10,000 Trees for Charleston commission works with City staff, local landscape architects, and other experts to insure that the right trees are selected for the right locations.

The tree planting on Meeting Street included two live oaks out of a total of 14 trees that were donated and will be planted throughout the city to celebrate Arbor Day. The other trees include four crepe myrtles on Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, one live oak on Savannah Highway, one live oak on Glenn McConnell Boulevard, one red cedar on Old Towne Road, three wax myrtles on Folly Road, one crepe myrtle on Saint Andrews Boulevard, and one tree to be planted on Meeting Street (species and location to be decided).

The trees being planted to celebrate Arbor Day were donated to 10,000 Trees for Charleston from local community members, companies, and organizations. Donors include the Bailey Family, the Charleston Green Committee, Charleston Water Systems, the Neven family, and the Nirenblatt family.

For information on how to donate to 10,000 Trees for Charleston visit <u>www.charleston-sc.gov</u> or call Jennifer Scales (843) 579-7501.

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